

## VENONA

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USSR

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CONTACT WITH POGONIN WHO PROBABLY HAS COVERNAME "NIKITIN" (1944)

From: MOSCOW

To: SAN FRANCISCO

No: 287

6 Sept. 44

Vladimir Illarionovich POGONIN<sup>[i]</sup> is an Inspector in the Department of Marine Transportation and a probationer of the NAVAL NEIGHBOURS<sup>[ii]</sup> [his cover-name is] [a] "NIKITIN".<sup>[iii]</sup> Establish contact by the password: You - "NIKITIN"<sup>[iv]</sup> asked me to report your whereabouts." He - "

[32 groups unrecoverable]

Note: [a] Inserted by translator.

Comments: [i] POGONIN : In USA from 25.11.43 until 30.6.46. Other references in the [redacted] traffic to POGONIN (full name not given) are in two messages from MOSCOW to NEW YORK - No. 196 of 3.3.45 (3/NBF/TM 009) and No. 225 of 13.3.45 (3/NBF/T970).

[ii] NAVAL NEIGHBOURS : Members of Soviet Naval Intelligence.

[iii] "NIKITIN" : In view of the stated connection with the Naval Neighbours this is presumably a [redacted] cover-name. Probably no connection with the NIKITIN of the "SALLY" story [redacted] who was scheduled to return to the USSR immediately after bringing SALLY to the U.S.A. i.e. in August 1943.

[iv] NIKITIN : Possibly refers to Capt. Boris Viktorovich NIKITIN, a member of SGPC and Commander of the Subhaser Centre at MIAMI. POGONIN appears to have belonged to this organization, since EL'TSOV, to whose office he was assigned - see 3/NBF/TM 009 referenced above - was NIKITIN's Administrative and Supply Officer (WASHINGTON's [redacted] No. 1310 of 16.6.43 - 3/NBF/TM 422).

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